



Demographic Profile of Wichita Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Q1 2015

The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines an unemployed person as one 16 years and older having no employment and having made specific efforts to find employment in the past four weeks. By this definition, there was an average of 15,466 unemployed people in the Wichita metropolitan area in the first quarter of 2015, approximately 49 percent of whom collected unemployment insurance benefits.¹ In the first quarter of 2015 there were approximately 7,612 people, age 16 and over, who collected unemployment insurance benefits. That is a decrease of approximately 16 percent from the fourth quarter of 2014.

Educational attainment is a leading indicator of unemployment. The higher the level of education, the less likely a person will be unemployed. In the Wichita area 30.8 percent of the labor force, age 25 to 64, have no more education than a high school diploma. Of those receiving unemployment benefits, 58.7 percent have no more education than a high school diploma.

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries						
25-64 years old						
	Q4 2014		Q1 2015		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than high school	1,199	15.5%	1,092	14.7%	(107)	-8.9%
GED or high school	3,591	46.3%	3,266	44.0%	(325)	-9.1%
Some college	1,991	25.7%	2,051	27.7%	60	3.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	763	9.8%	843	11.4%	80	10.5%
Not Reported	212	2.7%	164	2.2%	(48)	-22.6%
Total	7,756	100.0%	7,416	100.0%	(340)	-4.4%

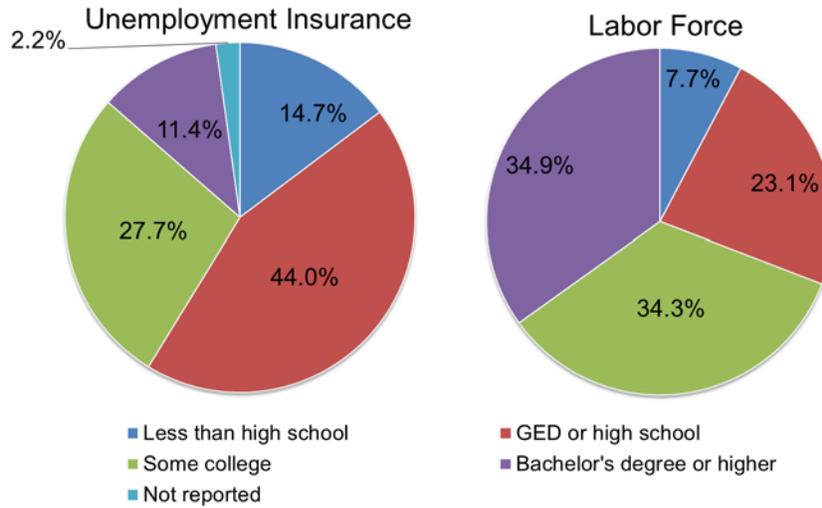
Source: Kansas Department of Labor

Between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, the number of unemployment beneficiaries in Wichita with lower levels of educational attainment decreased. There were slight increases in unemployment insurance beneficiaries with higher levels of educational attainment.

¹ The Kansas Department of Labor provided detailed unemployment beneficiary demographic data for first quarter 2015 at the county level, which was aggregated to the Wichita MSA.

Educational Attainment

Wichita MSA*



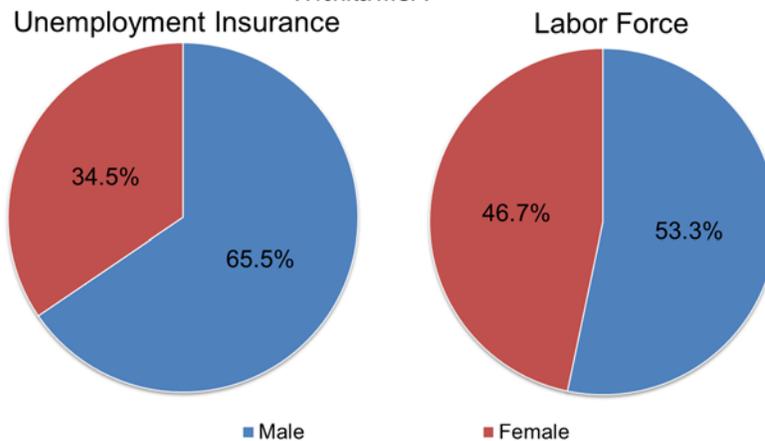
Source: Kansas Department of Labor, U.S. Census Bureau, *Persons 25-64 years old

Gender

In the first quarter, a person in the Wichita area receiving unemployment insurance benefits is 1.9 times more likely to be male as female. This is down from 2.25 times more likely to be a male than a female in the fourth quarter of 2014. The high level of male unemployment insurance beneficiaries can be attributed to the construction industry.

Gender

Wichita MSA*



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, U.S. Census Bureau, *Persons 16 years and over

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries by Gender and Education 16 Years and over						
Female	Q4 2014		Q1 2015		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than high school	368	4.0%	294	3.8%	(74)	-20.1%
GED or high school	1,187	13.1%	1,066	13.6%	(121)	-10.2%
Some college	886	9.7%	913	11.7%	27	3.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	361	4.0%	372	4.8%	11	3.0%
Not Reported	72	0.8%	52	0.7%	(20)	-27.8%
Total	2,874	31.6%	2,697	34.5%	(177)	-6.2%
Male	Q4 2014		Q1 2015		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than high school	1,041	11.4%	1,041	13.3%	-	0.0%
GED or high school	3,103	34.1%	2,279	29.1%	(824)	-26.6%
Some college	1,411	15.5%	1,182	15.1%	(229)	-16.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	472	5.2%	508	6.5%	36	7.6%
Not Reported	192	2.1%	121	1.5%	(71)	-37.0%
Total	6,219	68.4%	5,131	65.5%	(1,088)	-17.5%

Source: Kansas Department of Labor

Age

The age distribution of people receiving unemployment benefits remained approximately the same between the first quarter 2015 and fourth quarter of 2014. There are marginally more people 45 and over receiving unemployment benefits, 39.6 percent, up from 39.3 percent in the fourth quarter.

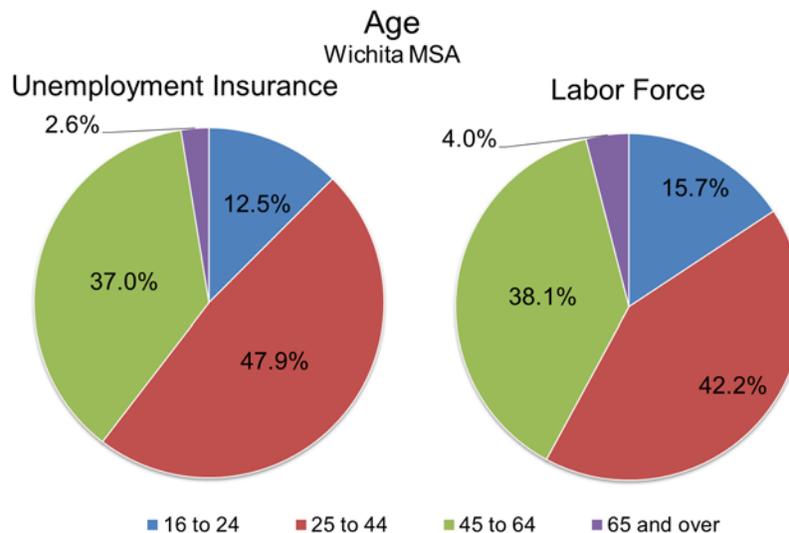
As would be expected, the majority of people receiving unemployment benefits are in the working age population between 25 and 64 years old. Younger working adults, between 25 and 44 years old, are more likely to be receiving unemployment benefits than older working adults, between 45 and 64 years old, at 60.4 percent and 39.6 percent, respectively. ²

² It should be noted that it is possible a significant portion of the unemployed not receiving benefits would be younger adults. The Census Bureau estimates the unemployment rate for 16 to 19 year olds in the Wichita area to be 29.0 percent, and 13.7 percent for 20 to 24 year olds. American Community Survey 2009-2013 5-year estimates

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries by Age and Education 16 years and over					
	16 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Total
Less than high school	1.9%	6.9%	5.5%	0.4%	14.7%
GED or high school	7.0%	20.1%	15.8%	1.0%	43.9%
Some college	3.3%	15.0%	8.7%	0.6%	27.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.2%	5.0%	5.9%	0.5%	11.6%
Not Reported	0.2%	0.9%	1.1%	0.1%	2.3%
Total	12.5%	47.9%	37.0%	2.6%	100.0%

Source: Kansas Department of Labor. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

However, age is not a strong indicator of who is likely to be a beneficiary of unemployment insurance in the Wichita labor force. The age distribution of people receiving unemployment insurance closely resembles the age distribution in the labor force. For all age groups, the number of people receiving unemployment benefits decreases with higher levels of educational attainment.



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, U.S. Census Bureau

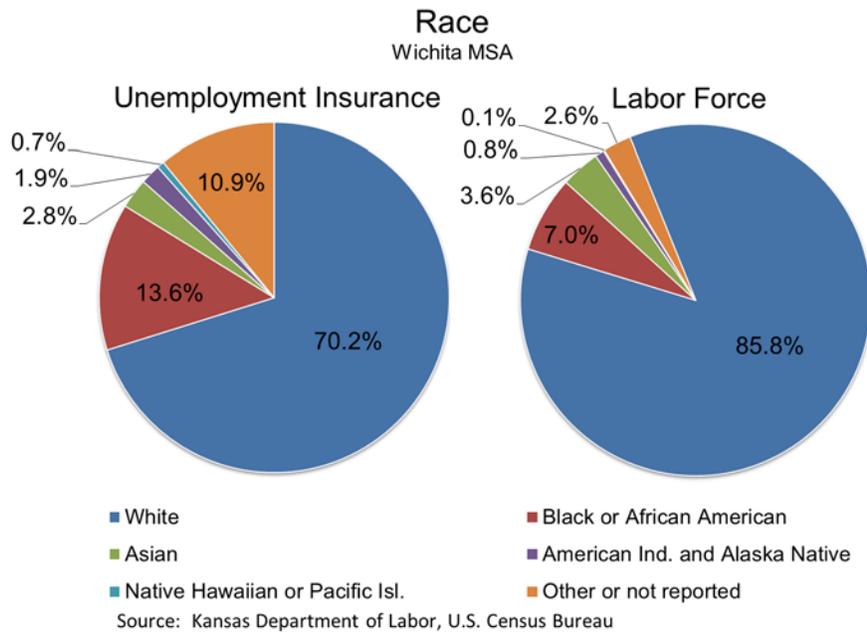
Race

A person receiving unemployment benefits in the Wichita area is 2.4 times more likely to be white than of a minority race. However, there is a disproportionately higher level of minority workers receiving unemployment benefits when compared to the labor force in the Wichita area. Minority workers account for 14.2 percent of the labor force and 29.8 percent of unemployment insurance beneficiaries. For all races, the number of people receiving unemployment benefits decreased with higher levels of

educational attainment. Between the fourth and first quarters there was little change in the racial mix of persons receiving unemployment insurance.

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries by Race and Education 16 years and over							
	White	Black or African American	Asian	American Ind. and Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Isl.	Not Reported	Total
Less than high school	7.6%	1.7%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	4.4%	14.7%
GED or high school	31.0%	6.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.3%	4.0%	43.9%
Some college	20.7%	4.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.1%	1.8%	27.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	9.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	11.6%
Not Reported	1.5%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	2.3%
Total	70.2%	13.6%	2.8%	1.9%	0.7%	10.9%	100.0%

Source: Kansas Department of Labor



CEDBR has this unemployment insurance data available for all Kansas counties and zip codes.

For additional information you may contact us at:

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